

Message Text

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SECDEF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: N.A.
TAGS: MASS, SP
SUBJECT: MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED DEPENDENTS OF SPANISH
IMET STUDENTS

1. SINCE LAST OCTOBER THE DEPENDENTS OF SPANISH IMET STUDENTS IN THE U.S. HAVE HAD TO PAY FULL VALUE (\$82.65/DAY FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT) FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AT U.S. MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES. AS A RESULT OF THE PERSONAL HARDSHIP WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CAUSED IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF JUNIOR OFFICERS, THIS MATTER NOW HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO HAS MADE KNOWN TO ME HIS CONCERN AND HAS ASKED TO HAVE SPAIN GIVEN TREATMENT SIMILAR TO THAT ACCORDED IN SUCH CASES TO OUR NATO ALLIES.

2. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ONLY CURRENT EXCEPTION TO GENERAL POLICY ON THIS MATTER MAY IN FACT BE THAT GRANTED OUR NATO ALLIES, WHICH ARE COVERED BY SPECIFIC
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PROVISIONS OF THE NATO SOFA ON MEDICAL TREATMENT.

3. HOWEVER, I THINK YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT A REDUCTION IN BENEFITS SUCH AS THIS, IN MID-STREAM DURING OUR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, IS REGARDED BY THE SPANISH AS REDUCING THE VALUE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE UNDER THE

TREATY.

4. THE STATUS OF SPANISH ARMED FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES IS COVERED IN NOTE 93 OF JANUARY 31, 1976, WHICH IS APPENDED TO THE AGREEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY. IT CONTINUES IN FORCE AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT (NOTE 823 OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1970), WHICH IN ITS PARAGRAPH 3 OFFERS THE SPANISH WHAT COULD BE EASILY CONSTRUED AS MDST-FAVORED NATION TREATMENT, WHEN IT SAYS THAT "TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY U.S. LAW AND REGULATIONS, THE GOVT. OF THE U.S. SHALL GRANT TO THE PERSONNEL REFERRED TO IN THIS NOTE THE PRIVILEGES RECOGNIZED IN U.S. TERRITORY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO...MEDICAL FACILITIES..." THERE IS ALSO A QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE DEPENDENTS OF U.S. MILITARY STUDENTS IN SPAIN ARE GRANTED ACCESS TO SPANISH MILITARY HEALTH CARE UNDER THE SAME TERMS AVAILABLE TO SPANISH MILITARY DEPENDENTS. IN FACT, BOTH U.S. MILITARY STUDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS RECEIVE COMPLETE AND FREE MEDICAL SERVICE AT SPANISH MILITARY HOSPITALS AND PHARMACIES. SPANISH MILITARY DOCTORS EVEN OFFER HOUSE CALLS FOR STUDENTS AND DEPENDENTS. WE ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO SPANISH MILITARY HOSPITALS FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. FORCES IN SPAIN AND THEIR DEPENDENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE SAME BASIS AS ACTIVE DUTY SPANISH MILITARY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE NO USE IS MADE OF THIS.

5. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THIS BY SENIOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT LEADERS, I WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU COULD DEVOTE TO REVIEWING THE SITUATION. TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENT FOR THE SPANISH IN THIS CASE IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF GOOD WILL AND RECOGNITION OF GOS EFFORTS TO MOVE SPAIN TOWARD NATO MEMBERSHIP; IT INVOLVES OUR TREATY RELATIONSHIP AND OUR INTEREST IN PRESERVING MEDICAL PRIVILEGES OUR MILITARY DEPENDENTS NOW ENJOY IN SPAIN. STABLER

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